

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EPA-01 OES-06 CEQ-01 PA-01 PRS-01
USIA-06 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /047 W
-----282323Z 014078 /66

R 282020Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9387
INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO
AMCONSUL MONTERREY
AMCONSUL MATAMOROS BY POUCH
AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO BY POUCH
AMCONSUL TIJUANA BY POUCH

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PASS EPA FOR GREEN AND TRAIN, IBWC FOR COMMISSIONER FRIEDKIN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, MX
SUBJ: ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ALONG THE US-MEXICAN BORDER

REF: MEXICO 16108

1. MEXICAN PRESS AND RADIO HAVE RECENTLY INITIATED PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AGAINST WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS U.S. ORIGIN POLLUTION CONTAMINATING MEXICANS ALONG BORDER. HEADLINES SUCH AS QUOTE MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND INHABITANTS OF JUAREZ POISONED BY AMERICAN SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY (ASARCO) UNQUOTE AND QUOTE TEN THOUSAND CHILDREN AFFECTED BY POLLUTION FROM SMELTING IN EL PASO UNQUOTE ARE FOLLOWED BY ARTICLES QUOTING OFFICIALS OF SUB-SECRETARIAT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT (SMA) DESCRIBING WHAT THEY CONSIDER VERY SERIOUS SITUATION.

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2. ON THE OTHER HAND, GUILLERMO DAVILA OF WHO AND PAHO REPRESENTATIVES HAVE QUESTIONED THE PRESS AS TO WHY ALL THIS PUBLICITY CONSIDERING THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN UNDER CONTROL FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS THROUGH JOINT US-MEXICAN EFFORTS AND MOST OF INFO APPEARING IN THE PAPERS HAS COME FROM A STUDY MADE ONE AND ONE-HALF

YEARS AGO OF THE SITUATION NOW BEING GREATLY IMPROVED.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CURRENT ANTI-POLLUTION CAMPAIGN, WHICH INCIDENTALLY ALSO CRITICIZES DOMESTIC SOURCES OF POLLUTION, IS DUE TO EFFORT ON PART OF NEW SUB-SECRETARY OF SMA ING. UMBERTO ROMERO-ALVAREZ ATTEMPTING TO CREATE NEW IMAGE AND DISASSOCIATE AGENCY FROM PUBLICLY DISGRACED FORMER SUB-SECRETARY VIZCANIO-MURRAY.

4. EPA ADMINISTRATOR RUSSELL TRAIN MAY WISH TO WRITE PERSONAL LETTER TO SUB-SECRETARY ROMERO CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS NEW APPOINTMENT AND INFORMING HIM OF SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF PAST US-MEXICAN COOPERATION IN THIS AREA AND INTENTION TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND SUCH COOPERATION. EMBSCICOUNS WILL FOLLOW UP IN SAME VEIN.
JOVA

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED IBWC.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLLUTION, PRESS COMMENTS, BORDER CONTROLS, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO16156
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760474-0528
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761210/aaaaaigr.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MEXICO 16108
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ALONG THE US-MEXICAN BORDER
TAGS: SENV, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006